ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಬಿ. ಶಂಕರರಾವ್.—ನಾನ್ಪೈಮೆಂಟಿನವರಿಗೆ ಈಗಾಗಲೆ ಬ್ಯಾಕಲ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವುದನ್ನು ಸೇಫ್ ಸೈಡಿಗೆ ತರಬೇಕೆಂದಿದ್ದೇವೆ, ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆಯೆಂದು ನಾನು ಹೇಳಲಾರೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಚ್. ಆರ್. ಕೇಶವಮೂರ್ತಿ.—ಹಾಸನ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ರೂರಲ್ ಕಮ್ಯೂನಿಕೇಷನ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯೂ ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದರಿಂದ ಅವನ್ನು ಸೇಫ್ ಸೈಡಿಗೆ ತರಲು ಈಗ ಫ್ಯಾಮಿನ್ ರಿಲೀಫ್ ಫಂಡಾದರೂ ಜಾಸ್ತಿ ಕೊಡುತ್ತೀರಾ ?

Sri G. B. SHANKARA RAO.— It is a suggestion for consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER.–I am holding over the question of Sri K. Lakkappa. We will now take up the Short Notice Question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Issue of notices by Electric Company at Belgaum *re*: Stoppage of supply of electricity.

Q.—25 Sri V. S. PATIL (Belgaum I).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether they are aware that the Electric Company at Belgaum have issued notices to cut off electric supply during this month if the bills for arrears have not been paid in full within one week ;

(*b*) at what rate the Company have charged the consumers ;

(*c*) what were the original rates for supply of electricity by the Company and how many times the rates were enhanced ;

(*d*) whether they have sanctioned the increased rates and if so, when and at what rate ;

(*e*) whether they have appointed a rating committee at any time since the license was given in this Company if not, why not ;

(*f*) whether they are going to appoint such a committee at least now ?

A.—Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA (Chief Minister).—

(*a*) No.

(*b*) The present rates of supply are :—

Lighting general at 45 nP. a unit with a standing charge of Rs. 1.50.

Lighting charitable at 38 nP. a unit with a standing charge of Rs. 1.50.

Motive power at 13 nP. with a standing charge of Rs. 2.69 per month per B. H. P.

Heating at 17 nP. with a standing charge of Rs. 3.00 per K. W.

(*c*) The original rates *i.e.*, of 1942 were in the old currency.

Lighting Re. 0-5-0 a unit with standing charge of Rs. 1-8-0.

Heating Re. 0-2-0 a unit with standing charge of Rs. 1-8-0.

Motive power Re. 0-1-0 a unit with standing charge of Rs. 2-0-0.

The rates were enhanced five times in 1943, 1949, 1958, 1961 and 1963.

(*d*) No. Does not arise.

(*e* No. Not so far required as per the sixth schedule and Rule 57A of the Electricity Supply Act, 1948.

(*f*) The question will be examined when the accounts of the Licensee for 1962-63 are audited by Government and if any infringement of the provisions of the VI Schedule of the Electricity Supply Act, 1948 is observed.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—Is it not necessary for this Electricity Company to obtain the sanction of the Government if they want to increase to rates of supply ?

†**Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.**—No. According to law, it is not necessary.

Sri G. V. GOWDA.—Is it not necessary under the Act to issue notice to the Government and the Board and get their sanction before the rates are revised ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—The question is answered. It is not incumbent on them to ask the Government for permission.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—Even the High Court of Mysore has held that without the previous sanction of the Government, rates cannot be increased. Has it come to the knowledge of the Government—about this particular decision ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—I am told that it went to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has held in favour of the Company and upset the decision of this High Court.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—Is Government aware that Government has got the power to appoint a rating committee and to see that the company can make only reasonable returns and if it is more, then the Government can interfere and reduce the rates ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—I know our friend has been agitating this question through questions and in Budget speeches. I am sorry that Government has not been able to help him much. Unless there are specific allegations made against the company and we go and scruitinise and audit the accounts, we cannot do anything. We will do so possibly. If we do and if there is anything objectionable, we will take action.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—Is Government aware that this company was started in 1931 and uptill now, it has expanded to about 12 big places and all this expansion is made out of the profits earned by these people. How is it Government is keeping silent over the loot of the people by this company ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—My friend has given me a lot of information which he knows. I cannot understand how we can prevent their expansion.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—Has it come to the notice of the Government that this Company is heavily charging us and making enormous profit and still the Government is sleeping over the matter ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—According to law the Government cannot interfere. I know the company has increased the rates. But unless there are specific complaints made and found true, I do not think the Government can interfere.

Sri G. V. GOWDA.—There is a proviso provided to the schedule of the Act which says that it is incumbent on the part of the company to inform the Government 60 days before, of its intention to enhance the rate and give the reasons also. If no notice has been issued to the Government, may I know what steps the Government have contemplated to take ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—So far the Government have found that the rates have been reasonable and not excessive.

Sri S. SIVAPPA.—In view of the fact that electricity is the basic need and it is a nationalised industry in the erstwhile State, will the Government think of nationalising Belgaum company also ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—There are rules as to how we should proceed in regard to these matters. We have to adhere to them ; it is not so easy to nationalise.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—The Company has increased the rates three times from 1949. When they raised the rates in 1948-49, is it not a fact that they got prior sanction of the Bombay Government ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—I am not aware of it.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—Our Congress Government says that they are now heading to socialism. Is it not therefore their duty to see that the Act is amended in order to make it favourable to the consumers and public in general ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—I am glad that the member owns the Congress as his. I can see the force of the contention in the question. It is a suggestion for action and we will take serious notice of it.

Sri G. V. GOWDA.—Has it come to the notice of the Government that the profit derived from this company is in excess of what is contemplated in the statute ?

Mr. SPEAKER.—If that is the case, I think the Company Law Administration in Delhi will take not of it.

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—We will take notice of the question.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—We are charged 45 nP per unit. May I know the rates prevailing in Bangalore and Mysore ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—I quite sympathise with my friend and the citizens of Belgaum. But I am helpless now.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—The Hon'ble Chief Minister cannot be helpless. They are our representatives and they must be helpful to us. This sort of pleading helplessness will not do good.

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—I would be glad to discuss this with my Hon'ble friend. He is a lawyer. Let him give his advice and I am prepared to hear him. I will certainly listen to him. Let me know how in law it is possible to change them.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA.—In view of the fact that this company is exploiting the public, will the Government think of nationalising this company ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—Anything we do should be only according to law. We have to examine the position.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಗೋಪಾಲ ಗೌಡ.—ಖಾನಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುಚ್ಛಕ್ತಿ ಕಂಪನಿಯವರು ಕೊಡುವ ವಿದ್ಯುಚ್ಛಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಸರಕಾರದವರೇ ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿರುವಾಗ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ ಶೀಘ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಏನಾದರೂ ಒಂದು ಕಾನೂನನ್ನು ತರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸರಕಾರ ಯೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತದೆಯೇ ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ನಿಜಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ.—ಕಾನೂನು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾಗತಕ್ಕದ್ದಿದೆ, ಇದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮುಂದೆ ಯೋಚನೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನೋಡೋಣ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ಶಿವಪ್ಪ.—ಸರಕಾರದವರು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕರಣವನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುಚ್ಛಕ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತರಲು ಇರುವ ಅಡ್ಡಿಗಳಾದರೂ ಏನು ?

ಶ್ರೀ ಎಸ್. ನಿಜಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪ.—ಕಾನೂನುಗಳು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾಗತಕ್ಕದ್ದಿದೆ.

Sri B. R. SUNTHANKAR.—According to my information there was a proposal before the Government to nationalise these concerns. In order to effect nationalisation a bill was to be drafted and a committee to draft the Bill was appointed. May I know what happened to that committee and at what stage it is ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—I want notice.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—May I know whether audit has already begun or is the auditor still to be appointed ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—I have no definite information about it. I want notice.

Sri V. S. PATIL.—May I request the Government to expedite this audit and come to definite conclusions ?

Sri S. NIJALINGAPPA.—It is a suggestion for action.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I put short notice question No. 29.

Decision taken by Government on the Report of the College Fee Structure Committee.

Q.—29. Sri S. M. KRISHNA (Maddur).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether they have received the report of the College Fee Structure Committee ;

(*b*) if so, whether they have taken any decision on the report ;

(*c*) what is the stand of the Government with reference to the following recommendations of the committee : (i) Fee Structure, (ii) Voluntary Donations, (iii) U.G.C. Pay Scales ?